

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD AUXILIARY



**America's  
Volunteer  
Guardians**

Promoting Boating Safety, Security and Stewardship since 1939



April 2010

National Safe Boating Campaign

**NEWS**

***Boat Smart.  
Boat Safe.  
Wear It!***

## Let's Talk Safe Boating

**By Harriet Howard  
Special Assistant for NSBW**

In preparation for National Safe Boating Week, May 22-28, we've ordered posters, pamphlets, decals and brochures about safe boating practices, to be handed out to the visitors at our Public Affairs Exhibits and Vessel Exam Stations. We're also prepared to talk to the boating public, listening to their concerns and answering their questions.

NSBW is the Auxiliary's special time to talk safety on the water, with an emphasis on life jacket wear, pointing out that 90% of all boating accident victims who drowned were not wearing a life jacket. We'll discuss the importance of taking a boating safety class and that there are classes for all types of recreational vessels- sail, power, paddlecraft and personal watercraft. (A class list should be available for sign-ups.) Copies of the texts, marked "Display Copy," should be handy. Knowing that recreational vessels should be inspected for safety requirements, we'll encourage boaters to get a vessel safety check by a Coast Guard Auxiliary vessel examiner. Citing Coast Guard statistics that alcohol use is the number one contributing factor in fatal boating accidents in the U.S., we'll urge the public to boat sober.



NSBW is only a month away, but our Public Affairs Officers and Vessel Examiners are always ready to talk boating safety.

A reminder: Please send me your photos and brief articles about your 2010 NSBW events at [harriethoward@speakeasy.net](mailto:harriethoward@speakeasy.net) by June 10th for consideration for inclusion in the NSBW issue of the Navigator.